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The President's Opportunity.

Edward H. Magill, ex-president of Swarthmore College, Pa., sent the following letter to the *Springfield Republican* under date of April 2:

"I have read with great interest the papers sent me the past few weeks. Your positions are surely tenable and unassailable, but I have continued to hope that your severe strictures, while applicable to the country, would not be found to apply personally to our president, whom I have regarded as a man seeking earnestly the practical way of solving, in the most Christian manner possible, the truly intricate problem which he has had before him. He surely tried to avoid the Spanish war in the beginning, and I had hoped that he would find for us a way to secure autonomy and ultimate self-government to the Philippines. But matters have now gone so far that I fear he has missed his glorious opportunity to place himself as one of our political trinity, and be ranked with Washington, the founder, and Lincoln, the savior, of his country. If his daring and his conscientious convictions were equal to the occasion, I believe he could even yet do this by ordering a prompt cessation of the war and proclaiming, through a peaceful medium, like President Schurman's committee, an early establishment of a government in the Philippines, 'of, by and for' the Filipinos. Such proclamation should be promptly translated into every one of the dialects of these motley peoples; and such action and proclamation would be doubtless followed by a prompt cessation of the shedding of human blood.

But will the president dare to risk this, or is he 'in the hands of his friends', for another term of office?

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Can he not rise to the higher plane of individual duty, and be satisfied, if needs be, with one glorious term, which will make his name immortal, instead of eagerly catching at the shadow of a second, and thus, if success attend his efforts, barter this opportunity to bless his country and immortalize his name, for the sake of occupying before the country the unenviable position of a political time-server for a period of eight years. Would that he would yet listen to the urgent entreaties of his own and the country's best friends, and make this present seeming sacrifice."

A Cruel Blow at Independence.

"The mockery of the fine talk a while ago about giving to the Filipinos their independence when they are fitted for it appears in strong relief when one considers that the policy of the administration was and is utterly antagonistic to the idea of Philippine autonomy. The one power in the islands capable of establishing and maintaining a native government was that of which Aguinaldo was the head and front. That power should have been nurtured, protected and recognized, if the United States was ever to develop in the islands a native government. To pursue a course sure to bring on an armed collision, and then to hurl upon the native power the whole force of the army and navy of the United States was bound to blight, and perhaps destroy, the tender plant of self-government which it had always been the mission of this republic to cultivate at every legitimate opportunity, among all peoples. A native government to be successful must have local dignity and prestige. Every cruel blow, therefore, which the native government receives from Gen. Otis's army is a blow at the possibility of ever raising up a native government that shall be able to maintain itself. The insurgent army and the brain back of it represented the one virile, masterful force capable of making of the Philippines a self-governing federation. In destroying that army and the idea it cherishes, we commit a terrible crime at the very threshold of the temple of liberty."

—*The Springfield Republican*.

Mental courage, the courage to think straight according to all the facts, is rarer than physical courage, or even than moral courage.

The Duty of America.

"America, however, does not have to cast her eyes across the sea to point morals upon the curse of militarism. It is a curse which threatens ourselves. The man who does not see it, and is not spurred as an American and a lover of America to new devotion to the rational organization of the world is a fool and blind.

The duty of America to frown upon military policies and the military spirit is peculiar. America, in truth, holds the key to the situation. John Bright pointed this out clearly in a Fourth of July speech twenty years ago. America, not burdened by taxes for the support of great armies and navies, was free to devote all her resources and energies to the development of her industries. This gave her an incalculable advantage over the burdened countries of Europe, an advantage which every one of them was feeling keenly. Let her maintain this advantage in the industrial competition, and they would all soon be forced to disarmament for sheer economy and self-protection."—*New England Magazine*.

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